

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 28, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 7, 2006

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AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 27, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2433

**Introduced by Assembly Member Negrete McLeod
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chavez, DeVore, and Lieber)**

February 23, 2006

An act relating to military and veterans, and making an appropriation therefor, *and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2433, as amended, Negrete McLeod. National Guard Family Resource Center Act.

Existing law establishes the Military Department comprised of the Office of the Adjutant General, the California National Guard, the State Military Reserve, the California Cadet Corps, and the Naval Militia. The department has specified powers and duties relating to military and veterans.

This bill would appropriate from the General Fund to the department the sum of \$99,000 for the 2006–07 fiscal year to provide upgraded armory facilities and access at specified battalion headquarters armory locations to support the creation of Family Resource Centers, as provided.

This bill would require the department to make a report to the Legislature regarding the program and makes specified legislative findings and declarations in connection thereto.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 National Guard Family Resource Center Act.

3 SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
4 following:

5 (a) The California National Guard serves essential public
6 safety purposes and routinely supports state and local authorities
7 in protecting the lives and property of the people of the state
8 during periods of natural disaster and civil disturbance, and
9 provides homeland security to the people of this state, as well as
10 serving the nation as a reserve component of the Army and the
11 Air Force.

12 (b) The California National Guard is a federally recognized
13 military organization that is routinely asked by the President to
14 perform dangerous duties in armed conflicts, contingency
15 operations, mobilizations, war, and other emergencies of national
16 significance.

17 (c) The California National Guard has a proud tradition of
18 federal military service where thousands of Californians have
19 answered the call to duty and served proudly, and thousands
20 more continue to serve their nation at home and abroad.

21 (d) The families of the members of the California National
22 Guard endure extraordinary hardships when the members are
23 called to duty by the President.

24 (e) The spouses and family members of deployed members of
25 the California National Guard also serve their state and their
26 nation, often without adequate recognition of their own sacrifices
27 and contributions to the public good.

28 (f) The spouses and family members of the California National
29 Guard could further contribute to the public good and
30 accomplishing the mission of deployed members of the

1 California National Guard by improved communications with
2 their deployed spouses and family members.

3 SEC. 3. (a) There is hereby appropriated from the General
4 Fund to the Military Department, the sum of ninety-nine
5 thousand dollars (\$99,000) for the 2006–07 fiscal year to support
6 the creation of National Guard Family Resource Centers. These
7 funds shall be provided to the Military Department to provide
8 upgraded armory facilities and access at the battalion
9 headquarters armory locations in Azusa, Burbank, Fresno,
10 Inglewood, Modesto, San Bernardino, and Walnut Creek.

11 (b) The Legislature understands that the cost of each center
12 shall be approximately thirty-one thousand two hundred
13 seventy-nine dollars (\$31,279) for a total of two hundred
14 eighteen thousand nine hundred fifty-three dollars (\$218,953). It
15 is the intent of the Legislature that these funds shall be used in
16 conjunction with privately raised funds donated through qualified
17 501(c)(19) Veterans Organizations or 501(c)(3) Charitable
18 Organizations to enable the completion of Family ~~Resources~~
19 *Resource* Centers at the seven battalion headquarters listed in
20 subdivision (a). It is the intent of the Legislature that the Military
21 Department, in concert with private organizations such as the
22 National Guard Association of California, shall be actively
23 involved in raising the additional funds from private donations.

24 (c) The funds provided to the Military Department under this
25 act shall be used only for the construction costs of the reception
26 and information area, Internet cafe, administrative support area,
27 conference area, children’s play area, families helping families
28 closet, and general construction costs.

29 (d) The funds appropriated under this act shall be made
30 available in equal parts to each of the seven armories listed in
31 subdivision (a), and shall be made available for each armory only
32 after sufficient funds or in-kind resources have been obtained
33 from other sources to complete the construction of a Family
34 Resource Center at that armory, as described in subdivision (c).

35 (e) The Military Department is encouraged to leverage
36 existing resources, such as the Distance Learning Centers,
37 National Guard Enhanced Classrooms, GUARDNET, NIPR, and
38 other appropriate means to communicate with deployed National
39 Guard members, as long as that use does not conflict with federal
40 law or military regulations. In order to maximize scarce

1 California resources, the Family Resource Centers should utilize
2 federal networks to the maximum extent allowed by federal law
3 and federal military regulations.

4 (f) No funds appropriated by this act shall be used for pay,
5 allowances, or other related payroll costs for the Military
6 Department, troop command, division, or brigade headquarters,
7 or armory personnel.

8 (g) The Family Resource Centers shall be staffed by
9 volunteers and existing Military Department or California
10 National Guard personnel, to include armory repair and
11 maintenance personnel and full-time unit staffing.
12 Notwithstanding federal law and federal military regulations, the
13 Adjutant General shall be the approving authority to allow
14 volunteers access to armories for the purpose of operating Family
15 Resource Centers.

16 (h) It is the intent of the Legislature to allow state employees
17 to support the construction and operation of these Family
18 Resource Centers consistent with their existing job requirements.
19 Furthermore, the Legislature recognizes the importance of these
20 centers in promoting the accomplishment of the Military
21 Department mission and improving recruiting and retention in
22 the California National Guard. Therefore, the Legislature
23 recognizes that the Adjutant General is authorized under existing
24 provisions to use funds otherwise made available to the
25 department to support the creation and operation of Family
26 Resource Centers in accordance with his or her strategic plan for
27 the department.

28 (i) When the availability of Family Resource Centers is
29 limited, priority of use shall go to family members of deployed
30 soldiers and airmen of the California National Guard. However,
31 on a space-available basis, these centers shall also be made
32 available for use by family members of deployed federal
33 reservists and active component military personnel.

34 (j) Within 365 days of the appropriation by this act, the
35 Military Department shall provide a report to the Legislature
36 indicating the status of the seven Family Resource Centers and
37 the number of military families it has served. Included in the
38 report shall be the amount of funds raised from private donors. It
39 is the intent of the Legislature to encourage private donations to

1 the Military Department to make the creation and operation of
2 future Family Resource Centers a public-private endeavor.

3 *SEC. 4. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the*
4 *immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety*
5 *within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go*
6 *into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:*

7 *In order to better serve the needs of National Guard members*
8 *and their families at the earliest possible time, it is necessary that*
9 *this act take effect immediately.*